

Remarks:

1. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 so there is no ambiguity concerning the concept of a surface and to clarify that two opposite magnetic poles on the same surface are not a first and second surface.
2. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Haji-Sheikh et al. (US Patent 6,784,659), hereinafter referred to as Haji.
 - a. Regarding Claim 1, Haji discloses a magnet (disk or ring shaped), with alternating North and South poles. As can be seen in Figure 4 of Haji, the sensors are placed in the flux lines that emanate from and return to the same surface. In contradistinction, the instant invention specifically claims that the sensors are placed in the flux lines that originate from one surface of the ring magnet and return to a second surface (i.e. not the same surface). Return flux lines are clearly defined in the instant specification and claims as those that emanate from a magnetic pole on a first surface and return to an opposite magnetic pole on a second surface. For at least these reasons, applicants contend that the claims of the instant application are not anticipated by Haji et al.
 - b. Regarding claims 2-8, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(a), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.
 - c. Regarding claim 9, the same arguments concerning the placement of the sensor that are made in point 2(a) above apply. Therefore, applicants contend that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

- d. Regarding claims 10-16, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 9, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(c), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.
- e. Regarding claim 17, the same arguments concerning the placement of the sensor that are made in point 2(a) above apply. Therefore, applicants contend that claim 17 is now in condition for allowance.
- f. Regarding claims 18-24, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 17, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(e), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.

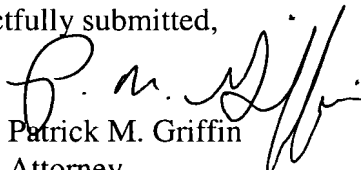
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the instant application.

Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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